

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 USSS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, UN, VE, CO

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR UN ACTION ON INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

REF: (A) USUN 208, (B) BOGOTA 821, (C) BOGOTA 781,
(D) BOGOTA 528, (E) BOGOTA 097, (F) CARACAS 714,
(G) STATE 12247

1. NOW THAT COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA ARE CLEARLY THINKING
OF SERIOUSLY ADDRESSING TERRORISM AT NEXT REGULAR UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, RATHER THAN AT SPECIAL SESSION (WHICH
COULD HAVE GENERATED MULTIPLE PROBLEMS), DEPT BELIEVES IT
IS A GOOD TIME FOR EMBASSIES BOGOTA AND CARACAS TO GO OVER
SITUATION WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE FOREIGN OFFICES.

2. IN DOING THIS EMBASSIES SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE COGENT
ANALYSIS OF THE BARRIERS IN THE UN TO SUCCESSFUL INTERNA-
TIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TERRORISM CONTAINED IN
REF (A); ESPECIALLY WORTH NOTING IN THIS REGARD IS THE
NEED TO GET AFRICAN AND ASIAN SUPPORT FOR ANTI-TERRORIST
MEASURES. WE ARE MODERATELY ENCOURAGED AT THE WILLINGNESS
OF SOME DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT HOW
TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON TERRORISM, E.G.,
THE FRG APPROACH REPORTED IN REF (G). NEVERTHELESS, THERE

IS STILL MUCH RELUCTANCE TO ENTER INTO BINDING COMMIT-
MENTS TO CONTROL INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, NO MATTER HOW
STERNLY A COUNTRY MAY BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH DOMESTIC
TERRORISM.

3. APPROACH TO COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN FOREIGN OFFICES
SHOULD BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. USG WARMLY WELCOMES THE POSITIVE APPROACH THAT THE
PRESIDENTS OF COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA HAVE TAKEN TOWARDS
RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. WE
SHARE THEIR URGENT DESIRE, AS EXPRESSED IN THEIR JOINT
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STATEMENT IN DECEMBER, FOR AN ENFORCEABLE INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION THAT WILL OUTLAW ACTS OF TERRORISM AND PROVIDE
FOR PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO PERPETRATE THEM.

B. USG EFFORTS TO FOCUS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AT THE
27TH UNGA IN 1972 BY PROPOSING A DRAFT CONVENTION ON
TERRORISM ARE WELL KNOWN. ALTHOUGH WE WERE DISSATISFIED
WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON

TERRORISM, WE NEVERTHELESS PARTICIPATED IN GOOD FAITH, IF FRUITLESSLY, IN ITS WORK IN THE SUMMER OF 1973. MORE RECENTLY THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IN AUGUST (TEXT IN DEPT OF STATE BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 8, 1975) AND THE STATEMENT OF USREP IN THE 6TH COMMITTEE OF THE UNGA IN DECEMBER (TEXT BEING POUCHED) UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE THE USG ATTACHES TO THIS PROBLEM. WE HAVE ALSO RAISED THE MATTER IN THE NATO COUNCIL, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE EC-9 HAVE ALSO TAKEN IT UP.

C. THOSE INTERESTED IN FOSTERING ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION IN THE UN SHOULD NOT MINIMIZE THE RESISTANCE LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED FROM COUNTRIES THAT INSIST ON A DISTINCTION BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM TO FURTHER PRIVATE ENDS (WHICH THEY AGREE IS CRIMINAL) AND THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATIONS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS (WHICH THEY THINK IS LEGITIMATE). THOSE WHO SEE THE LATTER ACTIVITY AS BEING LEGITIMATE WOULD SURELY PRESS FOR BROAD EXCEPTIONS IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON TERRORISM FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN LIBERATING "COLONIAL" AREAS OR IN RESTORING "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS" IN "TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY FORCE." EXCEPTIONS LIKE THESE ARE BASED ON THE FAULTY PREMISE THAT CRIMINAL ACTS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS LICIT IF THE MOTIVATIONS OF THE ACTORS ARE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO SOME. SUCH EXCEPTIONS WOULD EMASCULATE ANY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO COUNTER TERRORISM AND MAKE IT A FAR CRY FROM THE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT THAT WE, THE VENEZUELAN, THE

COLOMBIANS, AND A SMALL BUT INCREASING GROUP OF OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE IN MIND.

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D. RECENT STARTLING EPISODES LIKE THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE OPEC MINISTERS APPEAR TO HAVE INCREASED THE AWARENESS OF A NUMBER OF MODERATE ARAB AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS OF THE COMMON DANGER PRESENTED BY INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. WE WANT TO MAINTAIN AND ENLARGE THIS HEIGHTENED AWARENESS SO AS TO INCREASE CHANCES FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION AT THIS FALL'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE BELIEVE THAT COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA, WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, CAN BEST CONTRIBUTE TO THIS OBJECTIVE BY TRYING TO PERSUADE ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES (WHOSE SUPPORT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL) OF THE URGENT NEED FOR EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION. THE USG IS READY TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS IN ANY USEFUL WAY. INGERSOLL

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